

Abstract

The present invention provides an automated equipment management and reservation system that includes access to tools, information, and aids for managing an equipment rental business that is involved in in-town and one-way rentals. In a preferred embodiment of the invention, the system provides the user with reservation information in several different formats. The user can change the scope of the reservation information to display reservations for a particular location, or for specific equipment at that location. If a location does not have enough equipment to cover reservations, the system allows the user to search nearby locations for the needed equipment. The system tracks the equipment inventory at each location and automatically updates the inventory when equipment is dispatched to another location or received from another location. To facilitate communication between rental locations, the system provides a means for transmitting reservation information and messages pertaining to specific reservations.